(c) To bring down the birth rate, the Family Welfare Programme has a well defined strategy which is constantly reviewed. This strategy emphasises an optimal use of infrastructure created; involvement of voluntary organisations; improving quality of services, enhancing child survival; strengthening of information, education and communication; promotion of temporary contraceptive methods, incentives for terminal mehhods etc.

R & D Work in Scientific Establishment

479. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the inputs into R&D effort in the scientific establishments have been going down during the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the inadequate inputs into R&D effort in scientific establishments has adversely affected the industrial development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

There has been a steady increase in the allocations for science and technology in the successive five year plans. The allocations (plan and non-plan) have increased from Rs. 20 crores in the First Plan to Rs. 3716 crores in the Sixth Plan and to over Rs. 7500 crores in the Seventh Plan. Over the years, the Government has created a industrial infrastructure for the scienfic and industrial R&D.

In addition, the Government has also encouraged in in-house R&D in industry through incentives and awards.

Irrigation Project of A. P.

480. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage with regard to pending irrigation and Hydel Projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the reasons for the inordinate delay in the sanction of these projects; and

(c) by when do Government propose to clear these pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) 12 major and medium irrigation projects and 2 hydro electric projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending for clearance.

(b) and (c) Delay is for want of either environmental or forest clearance, inter-State issues or non receipt of replies from the State Governments on observations of Central appraising agencies.

Vacancies of Judges in Various High Courts

481. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in different High Courts during the last three years;

(b) the number of vacancies that have been filled up during the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in filling up of these vacancies; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some justices of Supreme Court felt that the delay in filling up the vacancies had led to the denial of justice to deserving cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the attached annexure [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No 25]